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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editors are not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. Letters should not exceed 250 words in length and should be accompanied by the name of the writer.

A MEMORIAL TABLET

DEAR EDITOR: In the new Army Medical School building shown in one of the photographs, which is now under construction at Walter Reed Hospital, the tablet, as photographed, will be erected. It is believed that the necessary funds for this purpose will be quickly subscribed by the officers, nurses, and enlisted men, who are now in the Medical Department or who were at one time in it, in memory of their comrades who lost their lives during the World War. The subscriptions, which are limited to \$1, are to be received only from those who saw service as officers, nurses, or enlisted men of the Medical Department of the Army during the recent World War. Nurses desiring to subscribe for this tablet which commemorates the service of their comrades who gave their lives while engaged in Medical Department work, are invited to forward one dollar to Major Julia C. Stimson, Office of the Surgeon General, War Department, Washington, D. C. It should be understood that nurses who were formerly members of the reserve or regular Army Nurse Corps, as well as present members of the Corps, are invited to contribute.

JULIA C. STIMSON.

WHY "COWBIRDS"?

DEAR EDITOR: We have all been told from our childhood days that there are always two sides to every question. May I suggest another side to this question of "cowbirds" which was brought up in an editorial in the July number of the *American Journal of Nursing*? If there are nurses who, at graduation, see only personal benefits in registration and becoming members of their alumnae associations, is it not pertinent to ask how many nursing schools have had the vision to see and give to their student nurses any knowledge of the larger needs in the nursing world, and their individual responsibility to help meet those needs? Perhaps it is true that the young nurse has little to give except enthusiasm, but after all that in itself is a valuable asset. Do we try to foster that enthusiasm by giving the young nurse something to do and then stand by, helping her

and urging her on, until she has gained the experience necessary to point the way to larger fields of endeavor? Or do we say, in deeds at least, "Oh, I have not the time to bother, and anyway I can do that so much better and more quickly." With this attitude is it any wonder that nurses go into activities where they are allowed to try their hand at driving the "machine"? It takes time to sit by and teach a beginner how best to run a machine, and to teach him how to see "dangerous curves ahead," but is it not worth while? It is the youth of today who will "carry on" tomorrow. It is the young nurse of today upon whom will devolve the responsibility of upholding the dignity and standards of the nursing profession of tomorrow. It would seem worth while to utilize every opportunity to give her today that which she will most need for tomorrow. If we conscientiously do this, we need not worry about "cow-birds" in the nursing profession.

Washington

H. W.

THE PACIFIER

DEAR EDITOR: I wish to express our appreciation of the excellent service the *American Journal of Nursing* is rendering. We look forward to our edition, the wrapper is quickly torn and just a peep taken at headings before we have actual time to read it. I was particularly interested in M. D. B.'s question—"Is a pacifier too small a thing for the National Organization of Nurses to take up?" What a splendid suggestion of soliciting support from the various women's clubs! The pacifier is one of baby's first gifts, now, part of its layette. How often we hear, of the second-day old babe, "Oh, she won't take it, nurse, maybe she will later on." Why do mothers use them? Is it because they think the mouth was made for something? Do they mistake the infant's lack of muscular control, or do they think it lessens their care, their work? Can we teach the causes of the cross, crying, restless baby? Have you seen the latest baby's gift box with pacifier?—a set attractively done up for one dollar; pacifier, teething ring, and rattle, skilfully polished like bone, made of wood. Recently I stood